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## It's festival weekend

See our special supplement on the Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival inside this edition of InPort News

## Big request in the wings

South Niagara municipalities are banding together in asking that Niagara Region take ownership of Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport. Page 6.

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# INPORT NEWS

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## Family hooked on fishing



GREG FURNINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Poncho Dyck of Welland spends time fishing under Saturday's hot morning sun with children Anna, 11, and Aaron, 8, at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina in Port Colborne.

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# UPFRONT

■ CHARITY: Sawhorse race to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters

## Saddle up, Port Colborne!

**FRANKI IKEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

Horse racing will hit Main St. in Port Colborne for Canal Days on Saturday.

Sawhorses, made of wood and other materials, ridden by a "jockey" and powered by a human "engine" will be competing in a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara.

"We've decided that this is the first year to do it, we know, and that it's the single-largest in the country as far as we know," said insurance agent Mark Guillebeault, one of the community members and business owners along Main St. W. involved in organizing the event.

Guillebeault said he got together with fellow business owner Frank Danch, from Frank's Home Building Cen-

tre, to come up with the idea, which they say they got from the horse replicas businesses hitched to the then-new bike racks a few summers ago. The horses were created and decorated to reflect the businesses.

The event is being hosted by the Main Street BIA.

"We're trying to get something up on our end of the street," said Danch.

Proceeds from the event are going to Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara, and the money raised throughout the day will be specifically designated to the organization's programming in Port Colborne, said executive director Barb Van Der Heyden.

Van Der Heyden said Big Brothers, Big Sisters relies heavily on fundraising and donors within the community to run its programs.

"For us, it's really important for us to get the help within the communities," she said. "Funds are decreasing."

Proceeds from sawhorse racing will go to help with the organization's one-on-one mentoring programs, after-school programs, Go Girls! group mentoring and Game On! group mentoring programs within Port Colborne.

"The best way that programming works is that you're in a community working within a community," Van Der Heyden said. "When you're doing that, you get the feel, you get your fingers on the pressure of what's going on and what's different and unique about that specific community."

"We are so very appreciative of these community people stepping forward and helping us to be able to provide service to the children



Port Colborne business owners Frank Danch and Mark Guillebeault are busy getting their sawhorses ready for the big race which will happen during Canal Days Saturday.

FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

within their community," she said.

The Main Street Stakes at Lock Downs will run Saturday from 11 a.m. until about 3 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for best in show, best-dressed sawhorse and best-dressed jockey.

For more information or to register visit [www.bbb-niagaras.ca](http://www.bbb-niagaras.ca) or contact Jeni LaMure from Mark Guillebeault & Associates at 289-836-7999 or [jeni@insured-life.ca](mailto:jeni@insured-life.ca).

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■ POLICE: Caledon man was not wearing life-jacket on choppy Erie water, police say

## Young man's body recovered from lake Erie

**SARAH FERGUSON**  
Postmedia Network

Police recovered the body of a 21-year-old Caledon man who fell into Lake Erie last Thursday.

"The family is devastated and they don't want to speak with media. The name of the man will not be released," Niagara Regional Police Const. Phil Gavin said.

Gavin said the man's body was found in the water about 50 metres from the south end of the jetty at Crystal Beach. He was in about 2.5 metres of water. A diver from the NRP underwater search and recovery unit found the man and brought him to shore Friday morning.

Police, Niagara Emergency Medical Services and Fort Erie Fire Department were called to the Crystal Beach area Thursday at 5 p.m. after the man was reported missing.

Gavin said four people had gone out on the lake in

an inflatable raft. The man — who was not wearing a life-jacket — fell into the water near the Crystal Beach boat launch.

The NRP marine unit searched for the missing man last Thursday night with the assistance of the Canadian Coast Guard, the fire department, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police vessel and a helicopter from the Trenton Air Force base.

"At the time of the search, the wave conditions were two to four feet high and conditions continued to deteriorate as the search continued," Gavin said. "The visibility wasn't the best, but we continued the search until the light conditions failed."

The search continued on Friday morning. The man was found at about 11:10 a.m.

Circumstances surrounding the cause of the death remain under investigation by the NRP Fort Erie criminal investi-



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The body of a 21-year-old Caledon man was recovered Friday morning from Lake Erie, about 50 metres from the south end of the jetty at Crystal Beach. The man who fell from a boat while not wearing a life-jacket was reported missing Thursday afternoon.

tigation branch and the forensic services unit. Police say foul play is not suspected.

The three other individuals involved in the incident were

not harmed.

Crystal Beach resident Wendy Fletcher said she knew something was wrong when she heard sirens.

"I could see it (the search) sitting on my deck. I counted four boats and seven floats in the water," Fletcher said.

"It always makes me sick when something like this happens. I've lived here for 37 years and it's awful when something like this happens."

Ridgeview resident Anthony Ibla was getting takeout from a local restaurant at 8:20 p.m. when he saw flashing lights and heard the loud hum of a helicopter.

"It was so crowded. There were people everywhere, and there were cars everywhere," he said.

Ibla said the water "was very choppy" Thursday night.

"When I saw what was going on and I saw the police lights, I knew something had happened to someone. The water was very rough (Thursday night)."

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### POLICE

**SIU**  
investigating injury in Port Colborne arrest

Postmedia Network

The province's police watchdog is investigating an early Saturday arrest in Port Colborne that resulted in a 37-year-old man being taken to hospital.

Ontario's Special Investigations Unit said its investigation centres on that man and officers with both the Ontario Provincial Police and Niagara Regional Police.

At approximately 5 a.m. Saturday, officers from both services were dispatched to the area of Moe's Tap & Wings at 190 Main St. E., at Hwy. 140 regarding a disturbance.

In a news release, the SIU said there was an "interaction" between the man and police officers. The man sustained a facial injury and was taken to St. Catharines hospital for treatment.

The SIU has assigned three investigators and one forensic investigator to the investigation of this incident.

One subject officer from the NRP, five witness officers from the NRP and two witness officers from the OPP have been designated.

The SIU is urging anyone who may have witnessed the arrest to contact the unit at 1-800-787-8529, ext. 1965.

Niagara Regional Police have released no details of the incident, nor is it likely to now that the matter is being investigated by the SIU.

The SIU is an arm's-length agency that investigates reports involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault. Under the Police Services Act, the director of the SIU must consider whether an officer has committed a criminal offence in connection with the incident under investigation depending on the evidence, lay a criminal charge against an officer if appropriate or close the file without any charges being laid, and report the results of any investigations to the attorney general.

# LOCAL NEWS

## BIZ BUZZ

# Wainfleet business confesses to success

**MARYANN FIRTH**  
Postmedia Network

It's a smalltown shop doing big city business.

Driving by, one would never guess Kingswood Millwork & Design — tucked away on a rural road in Wainfleet — has had a hand in preserving one of New York City's most prominent landmarks.

The company, which specializes in historic replication, has been given the monumental task of restoring four confessionals from the famous St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan.

The job is only a small part of the massive \$175-million, three-year restoration project at the church, which is expected to be completed in the next few months.

"It's exciting for all of us to work on these high-profile projects," Kingswood president Al Cheynowski, who co-owns the business alongside brother Randy, said behalf of his staff of 10.

"We're very proud of what we do here. Proud of what we make."

While based in Wainfleet, the company also has a small shop in Buffalo and generates much of its work from New York City.

It was a referral from a past job that initially got the company's foot in the door for the cathedral project.

"We did some carving for St. Pat's, restored the transept doors and then the confessional project came up," Cheynowski said.

The solid wood confessionals were disassembled and brought to the Wainfleet shop, where staff have spent the past eight months working to restore them to their original glory, including decorative wooden tracery that adorns much of the structure.

About 10% of the project has involved repair or replacement work, with the rest solely restoration.

The fourth confessional, the most intricate in the set, had to have two double-doors created and special hardware designed to go unnoticed among the carvings.

All new pieces need to blend in with the existing wood, says Cheynowski, and must be precise in detail to look as authentic as possible within the neo-Gothic style Roman Catholic church.

Each decorative piece is hand-carved by Kingswood master woodworker Barrie Casement.

Each confessional has to be fully assembled in the Burnaby Rd. shop to ensure it fits together perfectly before being disassembled and shipped back to the church for installation.

"It's very much a niche market," Cheynowski said.

"We're always bidding



Wainfleet company Kingswood Millwork & Design has been tasked with restoring four confessionals from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

against other companies, but we have a bit of an advantage because we do both new manufacturing and restoration.

"Few want to take that kind of business on because it's such a small market."

While experience is first and foremost, the Welland port native believes Kingswood's small size is a close runner-up among selling points.

"It means we can be more flexible on jobs," he said, adding

it's a quality that came in handy on the St. Patrick's project in particular.

The business recently learned the completion deadline was moved up about six weeks to accommodate the just-announced visit of Pope Francis to the cathedral Sept. 24.

Staff have since been working feverishly to meet the new deadline, Cheynowski said, adding pieces of the last con-

fessional were expected to be shipped out by the end of the month. Some were due to arrive in New York as soon as Thursday.

"We take servicing them property very seriously. That's so important," he said of the company's clientele list.

"Because we're so small, we don't have branding. We don't have marketing. We rely a lot on referrals and repeat business."

It seems the company's efforts don't go unnoticed.

"St. Patrick's Cathedral is happy with Kingswood Millwork's hard work and is grateful for their help in preparing the cathedral for Pope Francis's September visit, (as well as) for the many generations to come," spokeswoman Kate Monaghan said.

In the 10 years since its inception, Kingswood Millwork has built an impressive list of clients.

The company has done work at New York's Columbia University, the Corbin Building, the New York home of the Swedish ambassador to the United Nations, as well as the Brooklyn home of acclaimed singer-songwriter Norah Jones.

While Cheynowski admitted some places were "very intimidating" at times, he considers himself "very fortunate to have that kind of access."

"We all love architecture here. It's amazing some of the places you get to see that other people don't."

Once the St. Patrick's project is complete, Kingswood will begin work at Woodrow Wilson Hall, part of Monmouth University in New Jersey. The 130-room building, used as the mansion of Oliver Warbucks in the 1962 film *Annie*, is in need of door replications and stairwell upgrades.

## CONVENTION: Fire Fighters Association of Ontario annual convention hosted in Wainfleet

# Firefighters from across the province coming to Wainfleet

**FRANKI IKEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

More than a hundred firefighters will be arriving in Wainfleet this week as they gear up for the annual Fire Fighters' Association of Ontario conference, hosted by Wainfleet Fire Department.

The annual general convention will be jam-packed with educational courses, competitions, games and parades,

and an estimated 150 to 300 volunteer firefighters will be camping out in the village to participate.

Firefighter Tim Bunz, who organized the conference, said that hosting the FFAO is Wainfleet's way of doing its part for the association. It's also the first time the convention has been held south of Hwy. 401. In 20 years, said Matt DeVries, fellow firefighter and chair of this year's

convention.

The weekend will be busy, with many events open to the public to watch, starting off with a firefighter competition Saturday at 1 p.m., which includes a downhill hose races. On Sunday at 9 a.m. there will be a memorial parade for fallen firefighters held at the cenotaph, followed by a breakfast by Wainfleet/Port Colborne cadets from 10:30 a.m. until noon, and

more firefighter competitions and games starting at 1 p.m. The weekend will wrap up on the holiday Monday with an apparatus parade at 10 a.m. and an awards presentation at 11 a.m.

"We'd like to see the people in the community come out and support the parades that are here, support some of the games we have, come out and watch and see what we do," said Bunz. "This convention

coming here, it's good for the community, I mean we probably won't have a lot of retail businesses but the ones in the area in Wainfleet here obviously will be supported here and do well from it."

Wainfleet Fire Department is hosting the FFAO for two years, and while it had to spend some money to get the area ready to play host for this year, FFAO president Chris Karpinchick of Port

Colborne said the hope is that by the end of the second year Wainfleet Fire Department will have been able to raise some money for its association to put towards equipment, gear or to donate to local charities.

The convention is being held in the village at Wainfleet Fire Station 2 on Park St.

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**P** POSTMEDIA

I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

**W**here is the church headed? By that I mean, what will the church be like in the future?

The church today is not like the church of my childhood back in the 1970s. That was the tail end of what was pretty much an anomaly that started with the hairy hoop in the 1950s. Churches were filled, new churches were being built, old churches were being expanded with education wings being attached, the money from offerings was just flowing in to pay for it all.

But probably for the recent years since the 1990s the church has been seeing a decline, at least here in North America and maybe even longer than that in Europe. That's not the case everywhere. In the global south, in Africa, Asia and South America, the church is seeing incredible life and growth. But not here.

Now, that's not the case for every congregation. There are examples of growing churches whose members continue to worship and be involved in the life of the church and who are reaching people who had never heard the message about Jesus Christ or who had been away from any kind of church for a long time. I give kudos to those churches and pray for the continued faithfulness and effectiveness that they are proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sharing the love of God with a hurting world.

While some churches are seeing growth the reality and the overall trend does seem to be decline. So what does the future of the church look like? Well, nobody has a crystal ball that will tell us definitively. But the church is undergoing change. The church is not going to return to what it was in the middle of the past century. Society has moved and is continuing to move away from giving the church the place of influence and importance that it once had in the community. And not just the Christian church but religion in general

has lost the place in people's lives that it once occupied.

I believe the church will endure. There's a story in the scriptures where Jesus asks his closest followers, "who do you say that I am?" One of them, Simon Peter, answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." This was a statement of faith that he didn't come up with on his own, but was inspired by the Spirit of God. And Jesus said, "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Earlier this summer a colleague and I were discussing the present and the future of the church and he reminded me of that story and those words of Jesus. It's not up to us to build the church. Jesus said that's what he will do. He also reminded me of words of Jesus later in Matthew's gospel where he tells us what the task of his followers actually is. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ... and teaching them ..." (Matthew 28:19-20).

That is the task of all of Jesus's followers (not just the pastors, priests, and preachers). We who are part of the church have heard a message of grace, that God loves us and forgives us and wants to be in relationship with us. And it's not because we're so good or become so good. It's because God's love is so abundant and extravagant that he shows us with that love precisely when we're not all that.

As people who know that grace, who know that love, who live in a relationship with our God, we ought to be compelled to share that Good News with others who haven't discovered that yet. That's our job as followers of Jesus, to make disciples, to tell the Good News about Jesus to others that they might also become followers. And what the church will look like in the future, who knows? But at the end of Matthew's gospel Jesus concludes with these words, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Whatever the church will be like, Jesus is with us.

## Shipwrecks – Canadian Miner



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Shown is Canadian Miner in this undated photo.

SKIP GILLHAM  
 For Postmedia Network

**T**here was much celebration around Scattie Island, N.S., on June 22, as the last piece of the stranded Canadian freighter *Miner* was removed from the water.

The 222.5-metre-long retired bulk carrier was on its way to Aliaga, Turkey, for scrapping when it broke loose and came ashore on Sept. 20, 2011. The hull was well up on the beach and soon the elements pounded huge holes in the vessel making salvage impossible in the semi-permanent fishing area. A costly alternative was to dismantle the huge vessel on site but the cost and responsibility for the work was an issue of hot debate. Equipment had to be brought in, roads built and temporary housing set up to accommodate the workers. It took longer than expected but the hattered vessel has finally been removed.

This ship had sailed the Great Lakes from 1966 through 2008 under the names of *Mapleciff Hall*, the second *Lemoyne* and *Canadian Miner* before it became *Miner* for the long overseas tow that was never completed.

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■ DEVELOPMENT: Five communities now appealing school board's plan to tax new home construction

# Fee fighters list grows

MARYANNE FIRTH

Postmedia Network

Several municipalities are joining Fort Erie's fight against education development charges recently imposed by Niagara's Catholic school board.

The town has filed an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board opposing the new fee Niagara Catholic District School Board has chosen to attach to every new residential building built in Niagara over the next five years.

Set at \$172 for homes within the former Welland County boundaries and \$186 for those in the old Lincoln County area, the charges will be used by the board to fund land purchases to build new schools in areas

experiencing growth.

Fort Erie took issue with what the fee developers in all Niagara municipalities will be charged even though schools are only projected to be built in the Niagara Falls, Lincoln and Grimsby areas.

Pelham, Port Colborne and Thorold, all considered by the board as within the former Welland County, have since opted to follow Fort Erie's lead.

Niagara-on-the-Lake, which falls under the former Lincoln County and as a result a different bylaw, also decided to appeal.

"We're happy to see other municipalities are sharing Fort Erie's concerns," said Rick Brady, the town's director of community and development services.

"This allows us to work together as a team. I'm sure we'll be meeting in the not-so-distant future to discuss how we can co-operate in terms of managing the appeal."

Brady said he would like to see both appeals, from Welland and Lincoln County municipalities, heard at a single hearing to reduce costs and address both bylaws at once.

"I'm hopeful the board can see we should all work together and come up with a solution that can work for all of us."

Pelham council approved a staff recommendation to

move forward with the appeal process.

Like other communities, Pelham is appealing because the board has opted not to charge the fees on an area-specific basis, instead implementing the charges in all Niagara municipalities.

"Councilors are on board with it," town treasurer Carl Pupo said, adding the consensus was that Pelham developers should not be paying fees that will be used to purchase land for schools in other communities.

While she could not pinpoint how many homes are set to be built in the next five years, Pupo said the town is projected to see 2,950 residential units constructed between

2015 and 2033. That would result in more than \$500,000 in education development charges.

While there may be a cost associated with the appeal, an amount still unknown at this time, Pupo believes it will be well worth it to show we're fighting for the development community."

Thorold finance director Maria Mauro said the city also believes the charges should be applied on an area-specific basis.

"It's a bit different for us, because the school board already owns a vacant school site property in Thorold," Mauro said, referring to land on Richmond St. that has gone unused for some time.

"For us a property already exists, but developers will be forced to pay into potential school sites in other municipalities."

To meet the July 27 appeal deadline, Port Colborne was to address its issue Monday. Mayor Jennifer Robyn Macdonald said the town intended to also appeal.

Niagara Catholic was granted approval to apply the education development charges by the Ministry of Education after submitting a report outlining the board's past and projected growth. The changes came into effect June 22.

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Southern tier councils echo similar request made regarding Niagara-on-the-Lake airport

## Welland joins call for Region to run Pelham airport

GREG FURNINGER

Postmedia Network

Niagara Region will be requested to take two airports under its wings.

Welland city council has given its unanimous support behind the upper-tier municipality assuming control of Pelham-based Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport.

Rose City politicians joined those of Pelham and Port Colborne in endorsing a Niagara Central Airport commission motion. Windsor, the other controlling partner municipality, is expected to follow suit — that calls for a regional rescue.

"It's come to a point where we're challenged with our funding," said Ward 6 Coun. Jim Larouche prior to the local airport commission motion being passed by Welland council with virtually no debate.

Niagara Central Airport commission's request follows

that of Niagara District Airport commission's desire to have Niagara Region control the Niagara-on-the-Lake airport, since endorsed by its municipal partners of St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The south wants the same consideration.

The commission feels that it would be appropriate that the region, in considering any decision to take over the Niagara District Airport, should also consider assuming the operation and control of Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport," commission secretary-treasurer Bruce Smith wrote in correspondence faxed to the City of Welland on July 16.

The motion put forth by the southern airport commission said the Pelham airport will generate an economic impact for all of Niagara of \$40 million between 2004 and 2018,



Planes are parked at Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport in Pelham, which its commission wants Niagara Region to consider assuming control of Niagara District Airport in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

GREG FURNINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

based on a November 2014 report by David Archbold.

Both airports complement and support each other to provide "a full airport system" for Niagara, the motion stated, while also noting its importance to the Niagara South Economic Development Plan.

Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport — recently renamed for the 103-year-old pioneering aviator of Pel-

ham — is home to 50 aircraft and five businesses including St. Catharines Flying Club, Niagara Skydive Centre and Tarzey Aircraft mechanic services and Accipiter Radar Technologies is building a demonstration hanger.

It also home to 87 Eagle Squadron Air Cadets.

It has room for expansion for commercial and private hangars.

The 416-acre airport has

two paved runways (lengths of 3,500 and 2,670 metres), has water landing access on the Welland River and accommodates glider training and parachuting.

Including revenues, the south airport has an annual operating budget of less than \$200,000. Its four partner municipalities contribute about \$1 per resident to its operation.

According to the local commission, the Pelham airport attracts 10,000 tourists to Niagara annually as a result of fly-

ing, parachuting, flight training and other operations.

Niagara District Airport commission wants to move its facility from one for general aviation to one that supports international flights, a change that would require an estimate of millions in upgrades. Its current annual operating budget is \$300,000.

Pelham Mayor Augustyng has said he's not supportive of Niagara Region control of the NOTL airport unless both airports are considered in tandem.

Region Chair Alan Caslin has said the upper-tier municipality will examine all proposals for regional airports that are received by regional council.

**Local fact:** Consultancy report released in August 2009 recommended Niagara Region take the reins of Niagara District Airport — but said that it not control or regularly fund Niagara Central Airport.

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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Confirming services that will be offered says NHS official

# New hospital 'on target'

**ALISON LANGLEY**  
Postmedia Network

"There is a lot of "heavy lifting" going on behind the scenes of the \$26.2-million planning grant process for a new acute-care hospital on the outskirts of Niagara Falls, says Jim Diodati.

"Everything is moving forward as planned," the Niagara Falls mayor said Monday.

"We're going through the planning grant process and at some point after that's done the provincial government would have to make a further announcement of funding and then ground-breaking. That's the next big step we're looking forward to."

Niagara Health System formed a planning committee in 2014 to steer the organization through the planning grant process to

look at a new hospital at Menitose and Lyons Creek Rds. and two urgent care centres.

"We are on target and on plan," said Angela Zangari, NHS executive vice-president of finance and operations.

A clinical services plan has been completed and the report is available to the public on the NHS website.

The NHS is now working on the next stage of the process called the programmatic master planning.

"We're looking at confirming what services will be on site," Zangari added.

"After that, we will get a sense of what the footprint of the hospital will look like."

Diodati met recently with officials at the premier's office as well as the Ministry of Finance and plans to meet with the Ministry of Health

and Long-Term Care at the upcoming conference of the Association of Municipalities Ontario which will be held in Niagara Falls Aug. 16 to 19.

"I don't like to wait until there's an issue — I like to be pro-active — so we've been having ongoing discussions," the mayor added. "We are continually confirming the path that we're on."

The NHS is the lead on the planning work for the new hospital.

"Planning for Stage 1 pro-

posal submission is currently underway. To date, the ministry has not received any capital planning submissions," said Joanne Woodward Fraser, senior communications advisor, media communications and marketing division of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

NHS chief executive officer Kevin Smith in 2012 recommended closing existing south Niagara hospitals and replacing them with a single

new hospital to be built in Niagara Falls.

The province in 2014 committed \$26.2 million towards the planning of a new hospital. At that time, officials said the planning process could take up to 24 months.

Niagara Falls city council committed \$22 million towards the project. Fort Erie town council pledged \$3 million.

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## SOUTH NIAGARA HOSPITAL

■ Visit [www.niagarahospital.on.ca/future](http://www.niagarahospital.on.ca/future) for overview of plans as well as short survey were residents can provide feedback on the process.

■ <http://www.niagarahospital.on.ca/en/planning-our-future>

## ■ COMMERCE

# Business plan paying off: Caslin

**GRANT LAFLECHE**  
Postmedia Network

Niagara's role as a Pan Am Games host has come to an end, but Niagara's regional chair is trying to keep the eyes of the world here.

Alan Caslin and other Niagara leaders joined their Hamilton counterparts in that city last Wednesday to talk about business opportunities the games may have brought to Ontario.

"It was an excellent meeting," Caslin said of the trade forum, which also included Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger.

The meeting was part of a joint Niagara-Hamilton strategy dubbed "playbook." Niagara and Hamilton would use the international attention Pan Am Games brought to highlight business opportunities for international investors.

Caslin said there were workshops for international visitors held in Niagara during the Pan Am Games.

"We are saying to them, 'How

can we help you do business in Niagara?'"

Caslin said initial response from the international business people was one of surprise.

"I think they were a little bit surprised that we were willing to be so helpful. We are asking, what do they need? If they are talking about building here, we are taking about reducing or waiving development fees if possible," Caslin said.

"They are really expecting us to be helpful like us."

The strategy is showing some signs of paying off.

During the Wednesday meeting, a sports analytics company out of Peru announced it is setting up shop in Hamilton and Niagara.

And, Caslin said, in October there will be meetings with a Colombian trade mission where he will again pitch the idea of Niagara as a place to do business.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## CHARITY

# Wells of Hope passionate for about water



GRANT LAFLECHE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Scott Maxwell of Wells of Hope and Marietta Savriga of Graffiti Busters with a work van on the auction block for the July 31 Niagara Passion event.

**GRANT LAFLECHE**  
Postmedia Network

The reality is that charity doesn't come easy and it often doesn't come cheap.

Beyond the warm feelings of helping others in need, a charity often needs focused organization and money.

Scott Maxwell from Wells of Hope — a Niagara-based charity that provides clean water and other support for the poor living in the mountains of Jalapa, Guatemala — knows this more than most.

While Wells of Hope founder Ted van der Valk digs wells and leads teams of volunteers in Guatemala, Maxwell finds the financial support at home to keep

the work going.

That explains his enthusiasm for a customized work van, donated by Ed Paton, owner of Graffiti Busters and V-Crete Concrete, wrapped in a Wells of Hope banner and parked outside Mori Gardens in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Isn't this cool?" he said during an interview about Wells of Hope's upcoming fundraising at the garden centre. "It's part of our silent auction."

The van, along with other items, will be up for grabs at the annual Passion event being held at Mori Gardens on July 31.

It's the fifth year for the event, and a critical fundraiser for Wells of Hope,

Maxwell said.

The event brings 15 local restaurants, 15 winners and two Niagara breweries together for the evening, along with live music.

Maxwell said he hopes to raise about \$20,000 to fund Wells of Hope's programming in Jalapa, which includes education and women's programs along with prospecting and digging for clean water sources. Many people in the mountains of Jalapa have no access to clean water.

For more information about the Passion event, or to buy tickets, go online to [www.niagarapassion.com](http://www.niagarapassion.com)

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# LOCAL NEWS

## UNIVERSITY PREP PROGRAM

# Busting barriers to post-secondary education

**DON FRASER**  
Postmedia Network

Jahnyah Learmond has her heart set on physiotherapy studies in university.

But she has also worried that post-secondary funding and family time management could make it a stretch.

A recent exposure to a new Brock University program is changing her views.

She's realizing scholarships, alternatives and organizational skills will help her dream happen.

"If I could go to university next year, I would do it," said Learmond. She splits her time between St. Catharines and Whitchurch and has completed Grade 10 at Denis Morris High School.

"Now I know what I need to take for Grade 11 and 12,"

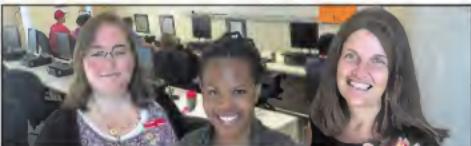
said the 16-year-old. "And at university there is help if you have problems in classes, and I'm also learning how to prioritize and organize with time."

Learmond — who is thinking about going to Queen's University — is part of a just-launched university preparation program for Niagara high school students.

The pilot program is a two-week, tuition-free experience for students who might not otherwise pursue a post-secondary education.

Young people who are entering grades 10 to 12 are identified by their schools or social service agencies as ideal candidates.

They may have parents with no postsecondary education, come from a lower



DON FRASER / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Brock's University preparation program coordinator Susan McGlynn, left, program participant Jahnyah Learmond and Youth University director Kate Cassidy inside a UPP class held inside the Cairns building.

income family, live in a rural area, identify as Aboriginal or have a disability or have other issues that could serve as barriers.

Programs include workshops to prepare for careers and post-secondary preparation, communication skills,

leadership training and community services.

Afterwards, participants get support and access to services from Brock through the rest of their time in high school.

Youth University director Kate Cassidy said about 40 people are taking part in the

program over four sessions this summer.

"Research shows there are certain populations that are less likely to even consider university," Cassidy said.

"And it can be very daunting and difficult thing to understand the cultures and

way of university."

"We've designed the program based on what we know are some of the reasons people wouldn't consider university, such as not understanding financial support, or misconceptions of how much it costs ... understanding what careers they might want," Cassidy said.

Preparation program coordinator Susan McGlynn said a kid of the program is to motivate.

"We're trying to show them if you want post-secondary education, it can happen," she said.

"We're trying to help them consider the obstacles in their way and then how to overcome them, and that there are resources available to support them."

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## EDUCATION

# Some Niagara College foreign grads denied work permits

**DON FRASER**  
Postmedia Network

Some foreign student graduates from Niagara College who have done online learning in a popular program are being denied post-graduate work permits.

This, because Citizenship and Immigration Canada says "distance learning" makes them ineligible after their student permits expire.

Those affected might even be forced to leave the country as a result.

A College representative says he shares the grads' concern "regarding the inconsistency" in how the federal government applies its requirements for post-graduate work permits.

"Upon hearing of this issue, the college took steps to support our graduates and we continue to do so," said Mike Wales, from the college.

The students affected are in the school's general arts and sciences program, normally a two-year program.

Lawyer Ravi Jain representing the students said one course had to be in class, and the other three could be online.

Meanwhile, international students who already have a foreign bachelor's degree and who also have a year of post-secondary studies in Canada need only one semester at Niagara College to gain a

diploma.

Anish Goyal, 27, is a Niagara College grad from the program and a student from India. Goyal, who has paid about \$7,700 in tuition to the college, also runs a Facebook group of affected students.

He came to Canada in 2013 to complete College courses in project management and then took the Niagara College course. His student permit ended in March. He has not yet been issued a work permit he has applied for.

"We did our due diligence," Goyal said.

"The college gave us in writing that their program has been provincially and federally recognized. And processes have been ministerially followed without cutting any corners."

Goyal said it has also been "clearly mentioned" this program makes us eligible to apply for a three-year post-graduate work permit.

"I don't know why there is a difference of opinion from the immigration department ... who believes this program is distance learning whereas the college says this program is not distance learning."

Goyal himself did some online work as part of the arts and sciences program. "As far as I'm concerned, a program offered in Canada by a college or university has an online component," he said in a follow-up e-mail.



ANISH GOYAL PHOTO / SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

## low-up e-mail.

Jain represents more than 50 of these students, two are Chinese and the rest from India. He said about 30 have had their work permits denied, with another 20 who are on hold pending an investigation and Jain expects them to be refused. Normally, those who are refused will be forced to leave the country.

"These students took a course that had a mix of online and class," Jain said. He figures some students were sent to the program because it was going to issue a two-year diploma in potentially four months.

He said the concern is that when colleges design these programs, "they have to exert

extraordinary due diligence."

"They have to ensure their programs are compliant" with subsequent work permit eligibility, Jain said.

In determining that, they should take a "very conservative approach" in determining federal immigration law.

Jain adds it seems "clearly stated" the rule is there's to be no distance learning.

As there is no definition of distance learning provided, "as lawyers ... we say what's the plain meaning? The plain meaning is 'study at a distance'."

"So a conservative interpretation if the law is 'don't do it.'

Wales said the general arts

and science diploma program is widely offered at colleges in Ontario, with typically 600 students enrolled in the program at Niagara College each year.

"While international applicants to this program are made aware of the opportunity to apply for a post-graduate work permit, they're also advised of the application process involved," he said.

Wales said the college has sought clarification on this issue from the immigration department on how it defines "distance learning."

Niagara College doesn't offer distance learning, he said in an e-mailed statement from the college.

"Students have several accessibility options for individual courses - including online options - but all full-time students must take in-class, on-campus courses to graduate," Wales said.

Wales said hundreds of international graduates of the general arts and science "exploration" program have successfully applied for a post-graduate work permit, including many among the same group as those denied.

"There has been no change to the delivery or curriculum of the program, which is approved by the ministry of education and universities, and meets the same standards as all of our academic programs," he said.

"While we haven't made changes to the program itself, in light of the recent changes in how (the federal department) applies its application requirements, we have advised students taking this program that taking online courses is not recommended."

Jain adds that the federal government is "having a problem with consistency" as some grads are getting their work permits and others are not.

"It's totally confusing to everyone," he said. "And they need to modernize and keep up with the pace of education

and they're not."

"I don't entirely fault them on being a little slow here," he said, adding "in my mind, the problem is with any colleague that takes an aggressive approach in designing programs with online courses."

In the meantime, he's trying to get some response from the federal government about a clearer definition of distance learning as it pertains to the students.

"You'd think they'd be receptive," he said. "After all, it was a community college that told them they'd be OK."

Jain said some public sentiment might be that the program is "too good to be true you do a four-month (semester) and you're supposed to do two years."

"But colleges have the right to recognize transfer credits and it was legitimate to recognize a significant number of them and give them that extra credit."

Jain said he's also looking at trying to get some of the affected students temporary resident permits on a humanitarian basis.

Nancy Caron with Citizenship and Immigration Canada said "as stated on CIC's website, students who complete a program of study by distance learning, from outside or inside Canada, are not eligible for post-graduate work permits."

"Post-graduate work permits may be issued for the length of the study program, up to a maximum of three years," Caron said.

She adds work permit applications, including post-graduate work permits, are assessed "on a case-by-case basis" by professional, highly-trained officers based on the specific facts presented by the applicant.

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## JOB



JULIE JOSSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Linda Soulliere, executive director of the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities, speaks during an announcement for funding for programs in downtown St. Catharines location.

## Feds announce funding for disability employment

DON FRASER  
Postmedia Network

Interview skills, effective job searching and focusing on employability — all are key to helping people with disabilities cross the threshold to good employment.

With that in mind, the federal government is providing \$406,000 for a work readiness program pilot project to help 32 Niagaraans with disabilities overcome barriers to jobs.

A new office on Church St. in St. Catharines is being run by the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities, which already has offices in Mississauga, Brampton and Orangeville. An office is also to open this fall in Guelph.

Funding was announced Wednesday by St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra.

"People with disabilities deserve every opportunity to participate in the job market," said Dykstra at the ribbon-cutting inside the sixth-floor office. "That's what participation in organizations like the coalition is absolutely critical."

The project announced today focuses on helping people realize their potential in the job market.

Participants are unemployed, self-identify as having a disability, are not eligible for Employment Insurance and not

## LEARN MORE

For more information on the Coalition and its services, visit [www.disability.org](http://www.disability.org)

in school or planning to go back to school full-time.

The 24-week program aims to boost skills such as time management and effective communication through group workshops and one-on-one training. Some may receive additional training related to their career goals.

Participants will get work experience with local employers in areas such as construction, health care and information technology.

"We know this program will be really successful in Niagara," said Linda Soulliere, executive director of Coalition for Persons with Disabilities. "We're going to fill a gap that you have."

"Now we just need our community partners to make referrals to this program. This project with Service Canada will certainly make a difference in the lives of these 32 people."

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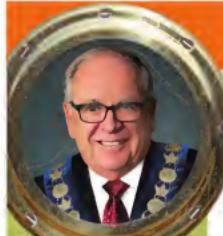


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CanalDays 2015

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It is a pleasure to present to you our **37th Annual Canal Days** – a celebration of our community's Marine Heritage along the shores of Niagara's South Coast.

This year we welcome back the tall ship Empire Sandy, the E.M. Cotter, a working fire boat, the Canadian Coast Guard, and an armada of Lakers travelling through the Historic Welland Canal. From lock to lake, the entire family will enjoy the flavours of Niagara along Historic West Street, an array of attractions and events at our Historical & Marine Museum, H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, Seaway Park, Lock

8 Gateway Park, Sugarloaf Marina, the Vale Health & Wellness Centre, and an exciting line up of entertainment at Market Square, the Clarence Street Connection, and the Roselawn Centre for the Living Arts.

The City of Port Colborne, within the beautiful Niagara Region, has become an investment destination. Located at the southern terminus of the Welland Canal, where water meets road, rail, and air, our location provides industry with the ability to reach their business targets. Therefore, not only is our community celebrating our past, but as well, we are celebrating our present and our future as Niagara's Economic Gateway.

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## GENERAL FESTIVAL INFO

For everyone's safety and enjoyment, all festival events are to remain free of pets, rollerblades, and skateboards. Bicycles are only permitted if participating in the Mountain Bike Race and are restricted to authorized race locations only.

The Market Square concert venue is an all ages environment with wrist band policy in effect. When age is in question, at least 3 pieces of ID—at least one with the photograph of the bearer—must be provided to obtain a wrist band, purchase and consume alcoholic beverages. There will be no exceptions.

This is a smoke-free event. In accordance with Regional No Smoking By-law 112-2013, please refrain from smoking on festival grounds.

All event times and schedules are approximate and subject to weather, including fireworks.

For further details, please call the City of Port Colborne at  
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**SATURDAY-MONDAY, 11am-6pm**

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Shriner's Balloon Animals 1pm to 4pm. Free face-painting from 11am to 2pm Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Free colouring area, inflatables, and infant and Tiny Tot Play Land. Pony Paradise 11am to 6pm. The Canal Days Children's Train will provide free travel from West Street, across Bridge 21 to the Children's Area and back.

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## THE MAIN STREET STAKES

**SATURDAY, 11am • Lock 8 Gateway Park**

The First Annual "Main Street Stakes" World Championship Sawhorse Race will make its inaugural run on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> with race heats beginning at 11am. Teams compete by riding homemade sawhorses, whose only means of power is the person pushing them! The event will take place at historic Lock 8 Park, also known as "Lock 8 Downs," and will be a fun-filled day for the whole family! Prizes will be awarded for best-dressed jockeys, best decorated horses, and of course the big purse and bragging rights will go to the race winner. Pre-registration is required to participate in the event with proceeds being donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information on registration contact Jeni LaMarre at jeni@insuredifferent.ca or 289-836-7999



## INDOOR CRAFT SHOW

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 10am-5pm**

**Vale Health & Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth St.**

A major fundraising effort by the Optimist Club supporting the children of Port Colborne, the indoor craft show showcases more than 60 vendors from across Southern Ontario. FREE Admission.



## ROSELAWN GARDEN SWING

**SATURDAY, NOON-3pm**

**296 Fielden Ave.**

Enjoy the afternoon listening to the Toronto All-Star Big Band in the Roselawn Centre grounds. The event is weather permitting and ID is required with your purchase of alcohol. Bring a chair or blanket and sit back and listen to music from the '30s, '40s and '50s. Donations accepted at the event.

## YOUTH 3-ON-3 ICE HOCKEY BREAKOUT

**FRIDAY-MONDAY**

**Vale Health & Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth St.**

Novice, Atom, PeeWee Division

Get out of the sun and on the ice for a youth 3-on-3 ice hockey tournament. \$600 per team, guaranteed 4 games with prizes and MVPs for semi-final and final games with champions winning Bauer apparel. Event T-shirts for all participants. Maximum of 10 players and minimum of 7 players including goalie. Contact Tournament Director Kevin Clark at 905-732-6600 or email prospectssportswear@gmail.com

## CANAL DAYS CUP 3-ON-3 BALL HOCKEY CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT

**MONDAY**

**Vale Health & Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth St.**

Men's B/C Division

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## CHALLENGE THE CANAL

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, MONDAY**

Whisky Run Golf Course challenges you to hit a golf ball across the Welland Canal. Hit a golf ball approximately 125 yards to clear the canal and win a 9-hole pass to play the Owl Course. Hit a golf ball 145 yards to stay on the sand green and win an 18-hole pass.

- \$2.00 for one golf ball,
- \$5.00 for three golf balls.
- All money raised goes to local charities.

## CANAL DAYS 5K RUN

**SATURDAY • H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park**

Join us for an exciting run through scenic Port Colborne. There will be a 5K run/walk for all ages. The race starts and finishes at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park. Visit [canaldays.ca](http://canaldays.ca) for details and registration link.

SUMMER FUN

# CATCH THE THRILL!



## 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CANAL DAYS CAR SHOW

SUNDAY, 8am–4pm • H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park

Southern Ontario's Largest No Registration Fee-No Admission Charge-Car Show. In lieu of entry fees, a donation of non-perishable food items is requested. Whether it's the huge collection of automobiles, the lakeside setting, or the live entertainment, this activity draws thousands of visitors each summer. Once you see it, you'll know why. Door prizes, over 60 trophies and special awards, and Dash Plates to first 400 registrations! Food vendors and Live Entertainment by 50's in Colour! For more information call Gary at 905-932-2701.



## SIXHOOD CANAL DAYS MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

SUNDAY • Weir Canal Municipal Parking Lot

6 hour relay format. Solo, tag team, and team categories.

Weir Canal Municipal Parking Lot located at 177 Main Street West. The race course will be approximately 10km in length with a lap time of less than 1 hour in duration for the average rider. This is an all-weather race and rain or shine, the race will go on. On course feed station will be provided. Food and Refreshment vendors will be available on site.

- Race registration is available online and closes August 1, 2015
- SIGN IN OPENS at 8am and CLOSES at 9:30am
- RACE START TIME 10am



## CLARENCE STREET CONNECTION

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Make your way to the Canal via the Clarence Street Connection, where 14 merchants and restaurants on each side of the block welcome you with specials and surprises all weekend!

Live music, contests, make-and-take crafts, and artful activities are featured Saturday and Sunday. Start each day with yoga, and wind up with Zumba – join in or just enjoy the spirited community.

Two stages anchor each end of the block – the J.B. Fashions stage at Clarence and King Streets, and the Something Else stage at Clarence and West Streets. Free musical entertainment, sponsored by the 14 businesses range from country, folk, pop, jazz to Latin. Some of the featured bands are Port Colborne High School, Bad Idea, Last of Our Kind, and On Tap.

Eataly Foods sponsors the annual cooking challenge on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. There is lots of fun to be had for participants in the annual pasta eating contest. Come out and watch or participate in these great activities.

Part of art at Something Else by being one of the 144 people to paint a 12"x12" square of a giant image- for all ages, no experience required.

*The Clarence Street Connection – Making your Canal Days experience even better!*



## FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

SUNDAY, 10pm (approx.)  
West Street on the Canal

Catch a view of this incredible show from West Street. A festival favourite and must-see spectacle in the heart of the city. As the canal is a working shipping waterway, we must secure permission for launching the display. We, along with our partners, endeavour to provide the show at 10pm, however circumstances may arise that delay the fireworks.

Sponsored by:



## INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY • H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park

Coordinated by the Niagara Windriders Kitefliers Association and the City of Port Colborne.

Bring the family to H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park Saturday to see International Kitefliers showcase their aerial works of art and skill. This all day and evening event features "Aquarium in the Sky" with kites shaped like large sea creatures floating in the breeze. Kite ballets choreographed to music, kite flying demos, and ground displays are sure to fill the field and sky with a dazzling display of colour and activity.

In the evening, enjoy the only night fly in Ontario. Various forms of spot lighting, illumination, reflective coatings, and built-in lights make the kites visible in the night sky.

- Single Line Field
- All day large inflated kites and ground displays
- Weather Permitting

## SCHEDULE ON SPORT FIELD

12-1pm	Opening with Professional kite flying and displays
1pm	Windjammers Kite Team from Detroit Michigan - multi-line kite ballet
1:30pm	Butterfly Migration - butterfly kites made by Carlos Simoes and flown by professional kite pilots
2pm	Windjammers
2:30pm	Fighter Kite Demo - lead by Bob Hegman of Michigan
3pm	Windjammers
3:30pm	Canadian Hero's Kite made and flown by Kerry St Dennis and Lucy Jonkman of Guelph
4pm	Windjammers
4:30pm	Quad Mega Fly - a four line kite ballet performed by professional kite pilots
Dusk-10pm	Night Kite Flying -trains made and flown by Jim and Barb Gibson of Cleveland

PORT COLBORNE

# HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM

## MORE THAN A MUSEUM!

Canal Days at the Museum is your destination for marine displays and photographs as well as railway, airplane, and ship models.

Enjoy the Great Lakes Model Boat Association's remote control boat show in action and the Niagara Antique Power Association's demonstrations from corn shucking to steam whistles.

Watch artisans demonstrate blacksmithing, woodcarving, wool spinning, chair caning, and rope ladder-making throughout the heritage village.

Visit with the 2nd Regiment Lincoln Militia 1812 re-enactors. The whole family can enjoy some toe-tapping live Folk, Country, and Maritime music under a canopy of shade.

Satisfy your taste buds with food prepared by Mary Jane Smith from Riverside Berry Farm. Savour tea and freshly-baked biscuits in Arabella's Edwardian Tea Room. Print a free souvenir using the museum's heritage press.

Explore our exhibits in the main gallery:

- **Lordy, Lordy, Look Who's 40** - In honour of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the museum, one artifact from each year of collecting was chosen to celebrate the people, the history, and the objects that have helped make Port Colborne a proud community.
- **Towpath Treasures** - learn about the significance of the Welland Canal through the treasures showcased in this exhibit.
- **Guiding Light** - with life-saving beams of light, Port Colborne lighthouse keepers guided mariners away from dangerous reefs from 1834 to 1986. This exhibit celebrates those who maintained the lighthouses and operated the lights and fog signals for over 150 years.

**Historical & Marine Museum**  
180 King St. @ Princess St.  
Children under 12 and Members free  
Open Saturday & Sunday 11am-5pm  
Saturday and Sunday admission only \$2.00

## Join us this year

Find a shady spot to enjoy good music, food, and family fun during the **57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CANAL DAYS** at the Museum.

- **The Harry Lou Minor Trio** - Lively original roots music
- **Drill Demonstrations by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Lincoln Militia**
- **Demonstrations by the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets #103 Niagara & #225 Renown**
- **Guiding Light** - An exhibit highlighting Port Colborne lighthouse keepers
- **Kids Zone** - Face painting, heritage dress-up, scavenger hunt, story times, games
- **Giant Sand Box** - Build a sandcastle
- **Prates of Port** - Spend a day with the PC. Lions as a pirate
- **Official Canal Days T-shirts** for Sale



## CLIMB ABOARD

# SAFETY VESSELS ALONG WEST STREET



## FIREBOAT EDWARD M. COTTER

Built and commissioned during an era where Buffalo's waterfront and port were booming, the Cotter has been an invaluable asset of fire protection for the numerous warehouses, grain elevators and other facilities that line Buffalo's shores.

On October 7, 1960, an unprecedented event occurred in American history. On that night, at the age of 60, Edward M. Cotter's extraordinary firefighting abilities were called upon to help Buffalo's fellow firefighters in another country.

A blaze had erupted in the eight-story Maple Leaf Milling Company, a grain and milling complex in Port Colborne. With no fireboat protection of their own, Port Colborne Fire Dept. sent the call out requesting the Cotter.

At approximately 8:30pm, with no radar of her own to help her navigate, the Cotter began her trip across the waters of Lake Erie. Two hours after receiving the call, the Cotter arrived. With all her guns brought to bear, she fought for more than four hours until the blaze was finally extinguished. On that day, the Edward M. Cotter became the first fireboat in the United States to cross the international line to fight a fire.



# 2015 CANAL DAYS

## EVENT SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, JULY 31****TASTE OF CANAL DAYS**

Noon Charlotte @ West, Park @ West

**WEST STREET**Noon Vendors, exhibits, **Canal Days Golf Challenge** hosted by Whisky RunNoon-5pm **Marina Navigation Simulator** on Clarence Street**5pm-7pm**8:30pm **Sunset Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$25/pp**MIDWAY**

8pm Princess Street Midway Rides and Amusements

**MUSEUM**Noon-5pm **Port Colborne Historical & Marina Museum** (free admission)2pm-4pm **Edwardian Tea** at Anabelle's Tea Room**MARKEET SQUARE**6am-11am **Canal Days Farmers' Market**7:30am Live at Market Square! **I Mother Earth, Junk House, and Stag Echo**, all ages, family friendly concert area, outside chairs permitted, donations accepted at gate, bar sales until 12am

12:30am Market Square closes

**SUGARLOAF MARINA**10am-4pm **Lighthouse Tours****SATURDAY, AUGUST 1****HJ. KNOLL LAKEVIEW PARK**8:30am **Canal Days SK Running Race**10am-10pm **Canal Days International Kite Festival** (free admission) Sport Kite Field; single line, dual line, quad line**TASTE OF CANAL DAYS**

10am Charlotte @ West, Park @ West

**WEST STREET**10am Vendors, exhibits, **Canal Days Golf Challenge** hosted by Whisky Run10:30am **Moraling Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$25/pp11am-6pm **Marina Navigation Simulator** on Clarence Street**1pm**

Fireman E.M.C. Cotter arrives on West Street

**Noon-10pm****Palooza on West****1:45pm****Afternoon Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$25/pp**6:30pm****Dinner Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$69/pp**MIDWAY**

10am Princess Street Midway Rides and Amusements

**VALE HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE**10am-5pm **Canal Days Craft Show** (free admission). Approximately 60 juried crafters**YMCA ACTIVITIES**1pm-3pm Open swim, Family Inflatable Bounce Time, Active Games for Youth (6-12 years old), **FREE** to the community, parents must be present with kids**CHILDREN'S AREA**11am-5pm **Children's Area** opens at Seaway Park, Colouring, inflatables and toddler play area, **FREE Watman Children's Train Rides** at Bridge 21, Ponyp Parade**11am-2pm****FREE Fairy Face Painting****1pm-4pm**Port Colborne/Welland & District Shrine Club hosting **clowns and balloon station****MUSEUM**

1pm-2pm Spend a day with the P.C. Lions as a pirate

11am-5pm **Port Colborne Historical & Marina Museum** \$2.00 admission, members/children under 12 free admission**11am-5pm**3pm **Ramada Control Model Boat Show** on the hour**11:15am**11:30am **2nd "Rag" Lincoln Militia drill demonstration****11:30am****Knot Tying & Saamisham Demonstrations** by the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets**11:30am****Sand Castle building****4:30pm****The Mary Lou Minor Trio**-Lively original roots music**11:30pm****4:30pm****4:30pm**Noon-4pm **Story Time** by the LibraryNoon-2pm **Tara's School of Highland Dance** perform Scottish dance1pm-4pm **Edwardian Tea** at Anabelle's Tea Room,1:45pm-2pm **2nd Rag Lincoln Militia** drill demonstration2:30pm-3:30pm **Maja Bananarama**-Original storytelling, theatrical performance and music3:45pm-4:45pm **2nd Rag Lincoln Militia** Special performance**ROSELAWN CENTRE**Noon-5pm **Roselawn Centre** presents **Gardan Swing Jazz** on the lawn with the **Toronto All-Star Big Band** Licensed, food and refreshments available**MARKEET SQUARE**7:30pm Live at Market Square, **Big Wreck** with **Royal Task and Black Collar Union**, all ages, donations accepted at the gates, family friendly concert area, outside chairs permitted, bar sales until 12am

12:30am Market Square closes

**LOCK 8 GATEWAY PARK**11am **The Main Street Stakas** Sew Horse Race**SUGARLOAF MARINA**10am-4pm **Lighthouse Tours****SUNDAY, AUGUST 2****GENERAL EVENTS**8am **Canal Days Mountain Bike Race** Presented by Shorthills Cycling Club. 10am race begins**H.J. KNOLL LAKEVIEW PARK**8am-4pm **Canal Days Car Show**, live entertainment by '50s in Colour**VALE HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE**10am-5pm **Canal Days Craft Show** (free admission). Approximately 60 juried crafters.**YMCA ACTIVITIES**1pm-3pm Open swim, Family Inflatable Bounce Time, Active Games for Youth (6-12 years old), **FREE** to the community, parents must be present with kids**TASTE OF CANAL DAYS**

10am Charlotte @ West, Park @ West

**WEST STREET**

10am Vendors, exhibits

10:30am **Morning Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$25/pp11am-6pm **Marina Navigation Simulator** on Clarence Street**Noon-T1pm****Pot on West**1:45pm **Afternoon Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$25/pp2:30pm **Fireworks Dimaz Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$95 pp9:30pm **Boat Parade of Lights** along the Welland Canal10pm **Canal Days Fireworks Spectacular** over the Welland Canal. Presented by Rankin Construction**MIDWAY**

10am Princess Street Midway Rides and Amusements

**CHILDREN'S AREA**11am-6pm **Children's Area** opens at Seaway Park, colouring, inflatables and toddler play area, **FREE Watman Children's Train Rides** at Bridge 21, Ponyp Parade11:30am **FREE Fairy Face Painting**1pm-4pm Port Colborne/Welland & District Shrine Club hosting **clowns and balloon station****MUSEUM**

1pm-3pm Spend a day with the P.C. Lions as a pirate

11:45pm **Remote Control Model Boat Show** on the hour11:30am **2nd "Rag" Lincoln Militia** drill demonstration**11:30am****Knot Tying & Saamisham Demonstrations** by the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets11:30am **Sand Castle Building**11:30am **Baach Combing** for treasures11:30am **1pm-3pm** **Indian Ball**-Traditional and contemporary songs and tunes from the Great Lakes11:30am **4:30pm** **Story Time** by the LibraryNoon-4pm **2nd "Rag" Lincoln Militia** drill demonstration

12:30pm-12:30pm

1pm-4pm **Edwardian Tea** at Anabelle's Tea Room1pm-2pm **Hala Bananarama**-Original storytelling, theatrical performance and music2:30pm-3:30pm **Harbour Lights Singers** perform3:45pm-4:45pm **2nd "Rag" Lincoln Militia** Special Performance**MARKEET SQUARE**1pm Live at Market Square, **Autumn Hill** with **Jam's Stavar** and **Chaisas Cristas**, all ages, donations accepted at the gates, family friendly concert area, outside chairs permitted, bar sales until 5pm

5:30pm Market Square Closes

**SUGARLOAF MARINA**10am-4pm **Lighthouse Tours****MONDAY, AUGUST 3****TASTE OF CANAL DAYS**

10am Charlotte @ West, Victoria @ West

**WEST STREET**

10am Retail vendors, exhibits

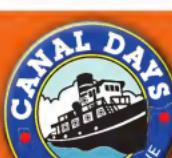
11am-2pm **Marina Navigation Simulator** on Clarence Street**Path on West**1:45pm **Afternoon Cruise** Empire Sandy boarding begins \$25/pp3pm Port Colborne/District Conversation Club **Duck Race** through the Welland Canal**MIDWAY**

10am Princess Street Midway Rides and Amusements

**MUSEUM**Noon-5pm **Port Colborne Historical & Marina Museum** Free admission2pm-4pm **Edwardian Tea** at Anabelle's Tea Room**CHILDREN'S AREA**10am-6pm **Children's Area** opens at Seaway Park, Colouring, inflatables and toddler play area, **FREE Watman Children's Train Rides** at Bridge 21, Ponyp Parade11am-2pm **FREE Fairy Face Painting**1pm-4pm Port Colborne/Welland & District Shrine Club hosting **clowns and balloons station****SUGARLOAF MARINA**10am-4pm **Lighthouse Tours****MARKEET SQUARE**Noon Live at Market Square, **The Cavarans** with **Tim "E" Handry**, outside chairs and strollers welcome, donations accepted at gate, all ages, bar sales until 8pm

5pm Market Square closes

5:30pm Canal Days 2015 closes



For the safety of all visitors,

Canal Days has a strict **NO PETS** policy.

Please leave your animals at home.

This is a smoke-free event. In accordance with Regional **NO SMOKING** By-Law 112-2013, please refrain from smoking on festival grounds.

# CanalDays

Marine Heritage Festival July 31-August 3, 2015

## THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The City of Port Colborne and the Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival organizers greatly recognize the generous support offered by each and every sponsor who contributed to this years fun and exciting events.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2016.



PORT COLBORNE  
The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation



Cooperative de Gestion de la Voie Maritime du Saint-Laurent



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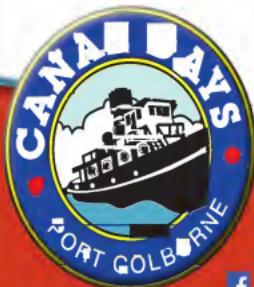
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THE TRIBUNE



CA

[CanalDays.ca](http://CanalDays.ca)

## ■ LOCAL ECONOMY

# New jobs to follow Hydac expansion

**OREG FURNINGER**  
Postmedia Network

A hydraulic equipment manufacturer and supplier is embarking on a nearly \$2-million expansion that will create a handful of new jobs in Welland.

Hydac Canada, at 14 Federal Rd., facing Prince Charles Dr., has been awarded a Welland Niagara Gateway Economic Zone and Centre community improvement plan grant toward construction of its \$1.825-million project.

The company plans to build a 1,214-square-metre shop addition to its existing 3,088-square-metre manufacturing facility.

According to a city report, the new facility will create the equivalent of five or six full-time jobs while retaining 43 part-time jobs.

The development will include nine sheltered bicycle parking spots.

The company has qualified for \$184,400 through the city's Tax Increment Based Grant Program, for which costs are shared by Niagara Region. The annual grant payment will be about \$38,867 over each of the coming five years, the report showed.

When the project is completed, it will represent an additional \$28,688 in tax revenues to the city and \$26,900 to the region.

Hydac was founded in 1995 as a division of Hydac International based out of Germany. Its products can be found in numerous applications, including for wind turbines, roller-coasters and airplanes. It was established as the sole distribution centre for Hydac International in Canada, but in Welland is now progressing more heavily toward manufacturing.

greg.furninger@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @GregAtTheIrb

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[www.whiskyrun.com](http://www.whiskyrun.com)

## NIAGARA Region Wind Farm

### Notice of Evening and Weekend Construction Activities

**Project Name** Niagara Region Wind Farm (the "Project")  
**Project Location** Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario.  
**Notice Dated At** Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 24th of July 2015.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), has engaged in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014.

#### Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

#### Evening and Weekend Construction Activities

Initial surveying, land clearing and grading activities has begun for the access roads and the operations and maintenance building. These activities are described in detail in the REA technical reports found on the Project website: [www.nrfc.ca](http://www.nrfc.ca).

As of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Project is under full construction, including construction of access roads, turbine foundations, collector lines, and the substations. The delivery of the turbine components to the site is expected to begin in August 2015. Construction activities are expected to last approximately 16 months. Based on the construction schedule, weekend and evening work by be necessary.

#### Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

##### NIAGARA REGION WIND FARM CONTACT

Shiloh Beniman  
Email: [shiloh.beniman@enercon.de](mailto:shiloh.beniman@enercon.de)  
Cell: 289-683-2563

##### BOREA CONSTRUCTION CONTACT

Mahmud Hindi  
Email: [mahmud.hindi@boreaconstruction.com](mailto:mahmud.hindi@boreaconstruction.com)  
Cell: 647-463-9116



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# LOCALNEWS

■ WRESTLING: 'We try to put on a show for the whole family' says Crossfire chief LaPlante



GRANT LAFLECHE / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

## Heroes, villains and figure-four leg locks

GRANT LAFLECHE  
Postmedia Network

Things were not going well in the ring for Chris LaPlante.

He was getting tossed from one ring to the other, and no matter how many times those at ringside shouted encouragement, he could not turn the tide of the battle.

LaPlante looked finished.

Trapped in that most iconic of professional wrestling holds, the dreaded figure-four leg lock, his face was a mask of pain. But just as all looked lost, he reversed the hold and his villainous foe, Tomer "The Nice Jewish Boy" Shalom gave up.

Of course, the outcome was never in doubt. The match at the Bring The Heat IV event hosted by Crossfire Wrestling on Sunday drew about 200 people to the Merriton Community Centre.

The event marks the beginning of a busy season for LaPlante and other local wrestlers.

"We're looking at doing a show a month," said LaPlante, from Port Colborne, who runs Niagara-

based Crossfire. "We have wrestlers from all over Niagara and Ontario. Today we have a guy who is actually from Israel."

He said Crossfire shows are throwbacks to professional wrestling's heyday.

"We try to put on a show for the whole family. You can see we have a lot of kids in the audience, so we want to do something that is entertaining for everyone and doesn't involve women taking their tops off or any sort of foul language."

Wrestling is entertainment. And if you have good story lines, good characters and good action in the wrestling, people love it. So that is what we are trying to do."

Wrestling characters are usually classic archetypes — heroes and villains whose outlandish behaviour identifies what role they play.

In his own match, LaPlante played the role of hero — the local boy out to make good. He raced into the ring to cheers and rock music.

Shalom was the bad guy, known in wrestling as the heel.

His character, harkening back

to old-school wrestling villains like the Iron Sheik or Nikolai Volkoff, plays to ethnic stereotypes. His manager, known as The Rabbi, is draped in an Israeli flag and on the back of Shalom's sweater, above a Star of David, was the phrase "You got Jewed!"

The hero was stalwart, even when his opponent had the upper hand. The villain was cowardly, escaping the ring when he wasn't "laPanted."

The hero was stalwart, even when his opponent had the upper hand. The villain was cowardly, escaping the ring when he wasn't "laPanted."

The Bring The Heat IV event also featured wrestlers from Cambridge, Niagara Falls, Toronto and Rochester, N.Y.

LaPlante said most wrestlers cannot make a living at it, so they practice and perform part-time, although some of them do get summons for bigger events including those hosted by the WWE.

For more information go online to [www.crossfirewrestling.com](http://www.crossfirewrestling.com).

grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @grants

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15<sup>th</sup> Annual

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Park Hours

Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 12 noon - 11 pm

Monday: 12 noon - 8 pm



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# LOCALNEWS

## Bigger New Year's Eve show could mean bigger problems

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

**I**t's a cliché as old as the word 'cliché': Be careful what you wish for.

You want a bigger New Year's Eve show? A huge headliner? More bells and whistles?

There's a cost to that. And not just money. The more our New Year's Eve show grows in Niagara Falls, the more headaches it entails. Until it becomes unrecognizable from the fun, local concert it used to be.

Sounds like fun. Compare last year's show to what it was 15 years ago. It was still a big televised concert back then, but uniquely local and accessible. The headliner was usually Canadian, the lineup a mix of new and old, the crowd in the 20,000

range.

That was when CH broadcast the show. Six years ago Global took over, sending its *ET Canada* team down to host. Instead of the weather guy at CH it was Cheryl Hickey. Things were looking up.

Two years ago, Global shifted away from the Canadian classic rock headliners to big U.S. acts like Devo, Lovin' Spoonful. There were complaints, but ratings were up. That's what mattered.

Last year, Keith Urban was the headliner. Ratings went up another 30%. You see where this is going, right?

A bigger show for this year. More sponsors. More money. More hands in the pie. This means more pressure on organizers to secure funding for what was already a \$3-million show last year. And that's where things get

tricky.

Global has still not confirmed it will be participating in this year's concert. The city and Niagara Parks Commission say talks are ongoing and details are being discussed about who will pay for what, which in itself sets off a few alarms. If everyone was so pleased with last year's event, what's to discuss? Why play hardball now?

I tried putting that out of the major players — the mayor, Niagara Falls Tourism, Niagara Parks Commission and Global — but no one budged. Talks are ongoing, things are being kept close to the vest.

But New Year's Eve is just five months away and there's still no commitment it will even be televised. Something seems amiss.

If Global wants to pay less,



Keith Urban is pictured headlining the New Year's Eve celebration in Victoria Park in Niagara Falls that ushered in 2015.

It'll argue the city benefits from massive exposure. It's providing the production. It's providing the publicity.

If the city and business partners want to pay less, they'll argue Global is benefiting from the advertising. From the built-in audience.

From the prestige of doing a

show in Niagara Falls instead of ... I don't know, Chatham.

Both sides benefit. But like any tough contract, you don't want the other party to benefit more.

Both sides want a bigger show. Who pays for it

could be the deal-breaker. There's only so much taxpayer money and grants the city can offer. There's only so much the tourism industry will pledge, knowing hotel rooms are booked solid anyway. And there's only so much Global will pledge. Global is owned by Shaw Media. Shaw Media has shareholders. Shareholders tend to ruin everything.

Global's 'nuclear' option is to pull off of televising the show, which is so ridiculous it just might happen.

And we'll once again be left wondering if bigger was better. We all lose if this great event, saved from cancellation a decade ago, becomes a victim of its own success.

That's one Aud Lang Syne

john.law@sunmedia.ca



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Postmedia Network

They've got the move to ya.

Tribute acts to Neil Diamond and Tom Jones are coming to the Fonthill bandshell.

After working in finance and then finding himself out of work, Mark Thomas took upon himself to seek his dream — performing as Neil Diamond.

Thomas has performed numerous shows spanning Canada and the United States, and on Thursday will return to the Fonthill bandshell.

Thomas sings all of the favourite Neil Diamond hits in his show which spans the singer's 40-plus years of entertaining. Fans will be singing along to *"I'm Only Cherry Cherry," "Song Sung Blue," "Sweet Caroline," "I Am I Said,"* and *"Love On The*

Rock.

Dave La Flame Thursday also returns, as Tom Jones.

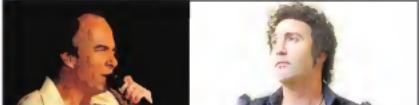
The Las Vegas awarded tribute artist will perform songs including *"Love Me Tonight," "What's New Pussy Cat," "Green Green Grass of Home,"* it's *"Not Unusual"* and *"Don't Be Afraid."*

La Flame's resume includes musical theatre, musician and impersonating many singers, including Bobby Darin, Roy Orbison and Sting.

Thursday's show starts at 7 p.m. in Peace Park. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated in order to continue to providing the concert series, now celebrating 10 years.

For more information visit [www.fonthillbandshell.com](http://www.fonthillbandshell.com).

## MUSIC



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Mark Thomas, at left, brings his Neil Diamond tribute performance to Fonthill's bandshell on Thursday night. He'll be joined by Tom Jones tribute performer Dave La Flame, right.

## Neil Diamond, Tom Jones tribute coming to Fonthill bandshell

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## OPENING SEASON

# Lineup named for St. Catharines arts centre

KARENA WALTER  
Postmedia Network

The inaugural season of St. Catharines' new performing arts centre was announced with international favourites and local talent.

"I'm just so excited," said Steve Solksi, executive director of FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. "All of the hard work, the last four or five years when the project was in conversation ... it's now becoming a reality as we start to engage the patrons."

The Hot Ticket season of programming includes performers like fiddler Natalie MacMaster, Broadway star Louise Plitre, rumba flamenco artist Jesse Cook, singers/songwriters Bruce Cockburn and St. Catharines native Ron Sexsmith and comedians Rick Mercer, Tom Green and Stephen Wright, among others.

The centre's four venues at the corner of St. Paul and Carlisle Sts. will also welcome local groups like Gallery Players of Niagara and Niagara Symphony Orchestra.

"That is only a small part of what the centre will offer," Solksi said.

"The centre will be the heart of culture for Niagara."

Solksi said he believes the centre will be a place in which artists can aspire to perform.

It will also host other events and is looking for those interested in renting the space, such as schools that might want to hold graduation ceremonies and businesses or social clubs that want to host after-hour functions.

"The arts centre gives us the ability to bring the community together, not only around the arts. It gives us the ability to bring the community together," Solksi said.

Solksi said the centre has 400 dates confirmed for events and expects to have up to 300 film screenings when it announces a film program in January.

That's 700 events, more than the 600 projected, he said.

"It's not just going to set the tone, but it's going to allow us to dream about how this centre can kind of live and breathe in our downtown core, in our city and in our region," said Saro Palmieri, programming and marketing manager on the inaugural season.

"I think it's going to inspire a lot of people to dream about different ways they can see themselves in the facility, whether that's through an arts and culture entry point, or a corporate entry point or a commercial entry point."

Palmieri said returning artists were chosen who were favourites at Brock's Centre for the Arts and new, soon-to-be new favourites.

The Brock Centre for the Arts closed April 23 after more than 45 years, with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre continuing its legacy of programming.

"We're excited to bring back to St. Catharines Darlene Love," said Palmieri, who worked at Brock's centre. "We had

## WHO'S COMING

A small sampling of acts for the first year at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre:

Fortunate Ones, Nov. 7  
Darlene Love, Nov. 28  
Louise Pitre, Dec. 3  
Jesse Cook, Dec. 4  
Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, Dec. 5  
The Nutcracker, Ballet Jorgen, Dec. 8 and 9  
Molly Johnson, The Billie Holiday Project, Dec. 15  
John McDermott Family Christmas, Dec. 17

The Celtic Tenors, Dec. 18  
Sing-A-Long Sound of Music, Dec. 28 Family fun with Splash 'N Boots, Jan. 3

40-40 Unplugged, Dec. 14  
DakhaBrakha, Jan. 28  
Tom Green, Jan. 29  
Chantal Kreviazuk and Raine Maida, Feb. 9

Circus InCognitus, Feb. 17  
The Walkers, Feb. 27  
Dr. Seuss Cat in the Hat, March 1  
The Trews Acoustic, March 10  
An Evening with Rick Mercer, May 11 and 12

her a few years ago and she blew the top off the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre."

Love will be the first artist in Partridge Hall, the largest of the centre's four venues.

A few weeks before that Nov. 28 concert, the centre will have opening celebrations and festivities. Palmieri said they'll be inviting the community inside for open houses, tours and special events as well as announcing other programming.

Tickets went on sale Tuesday for Seat Owner Members — those people who made a one-time donation of \$500 for a seat in Partridge Hall. That campaign has seen 60% of the seats sold.

On Aug. 8, tickets will be available to former Brock Centre for the Arts members who want to renew their memberships. The centre, now FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Members can buy tickets on Aug. 22. Memberships cost \$100 and give holders ticket discounts and other benefits.

Tickets for the general public go on sale Sept. 12 at 10 a.m.

Tickets can be ordered online at www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca or purchased in person at the interim box office at Suite 1-101 King St until Aug. 15 and at the centre's permanent box office from Aug. 17 on. They can also be ordered by phone at 905-688-5601, ext. 3700 or by email boxoffice@FirstOntarioPAC.ca.

For more information, check out the website.

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■ TV

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SUPPLIED PHOTO  
Niagara Falls actor Christian Distefano, 10, on set for the horror series *The Strain*. The episode airs Aug. 2.

## Falls actor Distefano appears on *The Strain*

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

At 10 years old, Christian Distefano might be too young to watch the gruesome TV series *The Strain*.

Unless he's in it, of course.

The busy Niagara Falls actor will appear in the fourth episode of the vampire show's second season — *The Silver Angel* — airing Aug. 2 on FX. In a flashback scene, Distefano will play Young Rudyard, the eventual owner of a faerie book called *The Octo Lamp*, which may hold the secret to defeating a vampire horde led by The Master.

The episode, filmed in January, brings Distefano face-to-face with some of the show's grotesque creatures.

"It was a little scary because I didn't know what the vampires would look like," he says. "But it was a really fun experience."

Based on the Guillermo del Toro & Chuck Hogan trilogy of novels, *The Strain* has been a ratings hit since it debuted last summer. But with its intense gore and violence, Distefano is hardly a regular viewer.

"I mean, vampires and blood and gore ... that's not my type of genre."

It isn't his first brush with horror, however. Three years ago, the Princess Margaret Elementary School student filmed the spook flick *Clown*, about a demonic clown suit which attaches to

a boy's father after a birthday party. It was produced by *Cabin Fever* and *Hosanna!* director Eli Roth.

He has also appeared in the thriller *Cut Bank*, the made-for-TV movie *Finding Christmas*, and the children's show *Odd Squad, Creative Galaxy* and *Postman*.

*The Strain* will likely bring him his biggest audience yet.

"It's still pretty exciting," he says. "It's really cool to be on a show like *The Strain* and say, 'Hey, that's me!'

Distefano's dad, Mike, a Niagara Falls mortgage broker, started watching the show when he heard Christian had been cast.

"I kind of took a liking to it, it's interesting," he says. "I was really impressed with the graphics. The cinematography on the show attracted me more than anything else."

Filmed in Toronto, Christian auditioned for the integral role of Zack before filming started, but lost out to Ben Hyland. When the role was recast for Season 2, Distefano auditioned again and made it to the final two, before losing to the slightly older Max Charles.

"That's how he got the role of Rudyard," says his dad. "It was offered to him based on previous auditions."

*The Strain* airs Sunday nights at 10 p.m. on FX.

[john.law@sunmedia.ca](mailto:john.law@sunmedia.ca)

## Lightstone stars in RiverBrink fundraiser

Postmedia Network

Former *Anne of Green Gables* and *Road to Avonlea* actress Marilyn Lightstone will star in a fundraising Cole Porter revue Aug. 3 to benefit the RiverBrink Art Museum.

Lightstone will join Toronto cabaret performers Gabi Epstein, Lawrence Cotter and musical director David Warrack for *Principally You*. The show is a fundraiser for the RiverBrink's future space for community education programs.

Lightstone won the Gemini Award for best actress for the 1975 movie *Lies My Father Told Me*, and best supporting actress for 1978's *In Praise of Old Women*.

On stage she was seen in *The Seagull* at the Stratford Festival and was among the

original New York and Los Angeles casts of the interactive show *Tamara*.

The show will have a special appearance by local actor Jeremy Carver James, currently in his fourth season with the Shaw Festival.

The revue will also include an extraganza recreation of Marchesa di Casati's Fountain Dress, made by costumer Pam Mundy.

Konzelmann Estate Winery will provide canapes and sparkling wine to start the night, followed by a four-course dinner catered by Niagara Gourmet Caterers and Willow Cafe.

Capping the night will be an appearance on the lake by the Niagara Gulls.

Tickets for the gala are \$150. Phone 905-262-4510 or visit [www.riverbrink.org](http://www.riverbrink.org).

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# LOCALNEWS

## ■ TV

## Frewin joins magical show Masters of Illusion

**JOHN LAW**  
Postmedia Network

It's no illusion that you're seeing double with Greg Frewin this summer.

In addition to a regular nightly show at his Ellen Ave. theatre, the Niagara Falls magician can also be seen on the CW Network's revival of *Masters of Illusion*. He was on the first episode of *Six* on July 10, and appears in a total of five season segments.

Frewin filmed the episodes last February. Among the illusions he performs are the 'squisher' illusion and the 'glass sawing origami' illusion. In the season premiere he performed the 'sphere,' in which one of his dancers is placed in a container which is pierced with flame lit stakes. When the container opens, two dancers and a rabbit appear.

All have been part of his popular live show in Niagara Falls over the years.

"I take the approach that it's just a live show, and there happens to be six cameras out in the audience at the same time," he says. "That way, when I perform I feel like I'm in the same mindset (as a live show). If you start working that camera too much, the audience



Niagara Falls magician Greg Frewin appears in multiple episodes of *Masters of Illusion* this season.

**MIKE DIABATISTA / POSTMEDIA NETWORK**

Other magicians performing throughout the 13 episodes are Ed Alonzo, Rick Thomas, Murray SawChuck, Nathan Burton, Tommy Wind and Michael Turco.

"These guys are professionals definitely," says Frewin. "It's not a low-end kind of show."

"A lot of these guys are my friends, and you sort of forget when you work in your own theatre that there's that much good magic out there."

Hosted by Dean Cain, the series is a revival of a Pax TV series filmed at Magic Castle in Hollywood in 2000 and 2001.

An offshoot of the series is the *Masters of Illusion* touring show, which Frewin will bring to Niagara Falls early next year.

To help promote the TV series, Frewin will also appear on *The Today Show* either Aug. 10 or 13.

If it's Aug. 13, he'll need some magic to survive a gruelling schedule: He'll be

his Niagara Falls show, fly out to New York that night, do *The Today Show* early the next morning, then catch a flight back to Niagara Falls for that night's show.

It'll still be worth it.

"It's always exciting to get on a plane like that with a big viewership."

Frewin's remaining episodes will be July 24, Aug. 7, Aug. 28, Sept. 11 and Sept. 25. The show airs Friday night at 8.

[john.law@summedia.ca](http://john.law@summedia.ca)

## ■ ENTERTAINMENT

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Tickets are \$15 plus tax, which includes one glass of wine (you can keep the glass).

The winery's Music Market series continues Aug. 3 with Lev Randall, followed by Jane's Party Sept. 7. The markets run noon to 6 p.m. both days, with free admission.

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